

Ambassador Feinstein's Remarks

at the Institute of Strategic Studies in Krakow

February 9, 2012

Introduction

- I'm pleased to be here today in Krakow taking part in the fifth Euro-Atlantic Security Forum.
- I'd like to thank the Foundation Institute of Strategic Studies, with which our Embassy and Consulate have a long history of cooperation, as well as the NATO headquarters and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung for organizing it.
- It's an honor to take part with many friends, including Minister Klich and Minister Winid, two men who have worked hard to strengthen the transatlantic alliance and our common security.
- The topic of this panel—the NATO summit in Chicago—is an incredibly important one for both the transatlantic relationship and for the bilateral U.S.-Poland relationship.
- I will talk today about why the U.S. values this summit so much and about the context we place it in.
- This summit is crucial not because President Obama is from Chicago, nor because President Komorowski will be able to meet with the large Polish community there.
- The summit is crucial because it will build on the Lisbon meeting to complete the transformation of the transatlantic alliance to meet the opportunities and challenges of the 21st century.
- This will only be the third NATO summit in the U.S., and the first outside Washington.
- This Chicago summit will enhance both American and Polish security, which means that is very high on my radar screen as the U.S. Ambassador to Poland.

- The summit also reflects the changes that are happening in our bilateral relationship as we deepen and widen the already strong relationship to create a next generation of partnership.

The 2012 Chicago NATO Summit

- The United States government is preparing intensely for this summit. This is happening at home at the Pentagon, at the State Department, and abroad at our missions to NATO in Brussels, in capitals of key allies like Poland, and in Afghanistan.
- We see the summit as an opportunity to align as allies, at the highest levels, our priorities, our actions and our plans.
- We start with the inheritance of the Lisbon summit, where we agreed on a new Strategic Concept for NATO based on four essential elements, the four C's:
 - Community of Values
 - Collective Defense, against new and old challenges alike (missile defense, cyber defense, posture review)
 - Cooperative Security, including crisis management, arms control and partnerships
 - Common Structures, for command, capabilities and funding
- Our broad aim at Chicago is to implement the strategy and agreements reached at Lisbon and move forward on three major goals at Chicago:
 - Afghanistan—successfully completing this operation, NATO's largest and most complex ever, which is essential to the collective defense and cooperative security agenda
 - Capabilities—working together to learn lessons from Libya and to deal with the austere fiscal climate
 - Partnerships—improving relations with countries near and far, the importance of which was underscored by Libya and the Arab Spring
- To ensure success in Afghanistan, we must manage the transition process while maintaining the principle of “in together, out together”. Poland has been a key partner in ISAF, and Polish troops have fought shoulder to shoulder with ISAF allies, including the United States.

- As President Obama has said, by 2014 the process of transition will be complete and the Afghan people will be responsible for their own security.
- Already, with Phase II of the transition underway, ANSF are providing security for more than 50 percent of the Afghan population.
- As Defense Secretary Panetta announced last week, after consulting with our Allies, 2013 will be a major milestone in our strategy, when the ISAF will shift from its lead combat role to a support, advise and assist role, and as Afghan forces move into the lead.
- We must build the capabilities that we need for NATO in the 21st century.
- Missile defense will be a huge part of this and Phase 1 of the EPAA is becoming operational now.
- We are working to determine the details of NATO command and control so that we can declare interim capability in Chicago—handing C2 from from the U.S. to NATO.
- The U.S. is also looking to bolster European contributions to missile defense, and to deploy all 4 phases of our EPAA system on schedule.
- We will also address gaps in ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance), and improve our planning for Smart Defense, particularly in these austere times.
- The NATO summit will also strengthen partnerships, which bolster our legitimacy and our capabilities.
- These are becoming increasingly valuable, as shown by Arab states in the Libya operation, and by our partners from around the world in counterpiracy, including China, Russia, India and Indonesia.
- This will not be an enlargement summit, though we aim to send a clear signal that the door to membership remains open to all aspirant countries.
- Finally, we will address our relationship with Russia to build as much understanding and common ground as possible.

The Next Generation of Partnership in Bilateral Relations

- The Chicago summit will be equally valuable for U.S.-Polish relations.
- In particular, the development of missile defense will contribute to enhanced security for Poland and Europe.

- Our bilateral defense cooperation is one of the three pillars of a bilateral relationship, along with democracy promotion and economic ties, that make Poland one of our closest friends and allies in the world.
- We have fought for each other's freedom for hundreds of years, going back to Pulaski and Kosciuszko, who has a monument in his name in Chicago.
- As the western and eastern edges of the transatlantic space, I believe that the U.S. and Poland have a responsibility to work together to bolster the whole alliance.
- I am proud of the achievements we have made in strengthening the security of our two countries, including the regular deployments of Patriot batteries and the training of thousands of soldiers that happens every year.
- We look forward to the first permanent U.S. military presence in Poland, which as announced by Presidents Obama and Komorowski, will be established this year.
- This will be the U.S. air detachment at Lask air force base, where Americans and Poles will cooperate to strengthen our air forces. Secretary Panetta, in his speech last weekend at the Munich Security Conference about smart defense and the U.S. defense posture, called the establishment of an aviation detachment in Poland an „innovative approach to strengthen security cooperation.”
- The United States has also increased spending on defense training and equipment in Poland this year by five times, from \$2.85 million to \$14 million.
- This will enhance the responsiveness of special operations forces.
- We have also increased our cooperation in the defense industry, something I saw first-hand in the Rzeszow “aviation valley” this week, where I visited the Sikorski helicopter plant.
- This increase in defense cooperation is taking place in the move to a new generation of partnership, where we will support Poland as it assumes its natural and indispensable role as a leader in European security.
- The United States has never valued our cooperation with Poland and Europe more, something President Obama emphasized during his visit to Warsaw last May and at the U.S.-EU summit in November.

- As Secretary Clinton stated in Munich last week: „Europe is and remains America’s partner of first resort... wherever America is working to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, to fight disease, to help nations on the difficult journey from dictatorship to democracy, we are side by side with our friends in Europe.”
- But the United States, particularly with our Pacific geography, must also focus on the opportunities and challenges in Asia, to build a web of partnerships and institutions as durable as those that we have across the Atlantic.
- I believe that this is in Poland’s, and in Europe’s interests as well.
- Therefore, we will look in this next generation of partnership for countries like Poland to take on more responsibility in NATO and in European security.
- I believe that Poland is naturally suited to play this leadership role.
- Poland successfully hosted the EU presidency last year; it has been a leader in democracy promotion in the Eastern Neighborhood; its dynamic economy is among the fastest growing in Europe; it has a history of leading the region, including in the peaceful struggle to end communist rule; and it has a government and a population full of energy and ideas to lead in this region and beyond.
- This leadership role calls on Poland to shoulder many responsibilities, including – during the most difficult times – sending its sons and daughters into harm’s way.
- America and all of the NATO allies greatly appreciate Poland’s contributions to ISAF, and we honor Poland’s sacrifices and commitment.
- I travelled to Afghanistan and saw the contribution Poland is making, and heard from ISAF commanders about how honorably Polish troops are serving.
- Conclusion
- To sum up, Poland and America are united in supporting a strong Europe, a strong NATO, and a strong bilateral relationship.
- We look forward to this NATO summit to make this cooperation more concrete and look forward to Poland playing a leadership role in European security.